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AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) An apparatus for preventing theft in automotive vehicle service centers comprising:  
a transmitter configured to transmit a wireless security signal which defines a perimeter, the transmitter including processing circuitry operably coupled to the transmitter and an external receiver operably coupled to the processing circuitry;  
at least one battery tester for use in the automotive vehicle service centers comprising:  
a receiver configured to receive the transmitted security signal; and  
security circuitry coupled to the receiver and configured to disable the battery tester if the battery tester is outside the perimeter defined by the security signal;  
wherein the external receiver of the transmitter is also configured to receive a theft signal transmitted from the battery tester if the battery tester is outside the perimeter defined by the security signal.
2. (canceled).
3. (original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the security signal comprises one of a diffused infrared signal and a radio frequency signal.
4. (original) The apparatus of claim 3, wherein the radio frequency signal of the transmitter and the receiver incorporate a Bluetooth protocol.
5. (original) The apparatus of claim 3, wherein the radio frequency signal of the transmitter and the receiver incorporate an 802.11b protocol.
6. (original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the perimeter of the security signal is defined by a predetermined signal strength.
7. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 6, wherein the battery tester is outside the perimeter if the security signal is less than the predetermined signal strength.

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8. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 7, wherein the security circuitry is configured to disable the battery tester if a predetermined period of time has elapsed since the battery tester was outside the perimeter defined by the security signal.

9. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the battery tester further comprises an output operably coupled to the security circuitry, wherein the security circuitry is further configured to output a continuous audible noise if the battery tester is outside the perimeter defined by the security signal.

10. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the battery tester further comprises a tool transmitter operably coupled to the security circuitry and configured to transmit a theft signal if the battery tester is outside the perimeter defined by the security signal.

11. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the battery tester further comprises an internal power source configured to power the battery tester.

12. (original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the receiver comprises an embedded radio frequency identification tag.

13. (canceled).

14. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim ~~13~~1, wherein the external receiver and the transmitter comprise a radio frequency identification reader.

15. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim ~~13~~1, wherein the processing circuitry further comprises a memory, wherein the processing circuitry is configured to record information related to the transmitted theft signal to the memory.

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16. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim 13, wherein the processing circuitry is further configured to output an audible alarm when the processing circuitry receives the transmitted theft signal.

17. (previously presented) An apparatus for preventing theft in automotive vehicle service centers comprising:

at least one transmitter configured to transmit a wireless security signal which defines a perimeter;

at least one battery tester for use in the automotive vehicle service centers comprising:

a receiver configured to receive the transmitted security signal; and

security circuitry coupled to the receiver and configured to disable the battery tester if the battery tester at least partially passes through the perimeter defined by the security signal.

18. (original) The apparatus of claim 17, wherein the security signal comprises one of a direct infrared signal, a diffused infrared signal and a radio frequency signal.

19. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 17, wherein the battery tester further comprises an output operably coupled to the security circuitry, wherein the security circuitry is further configured to output a continuous audible noise if the battery tester at least partially passes through the perimeter defined by the security signal.

20. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 17 and further comprising processing circuitry operably coupled to the transmitter, the processing circuitry including an external receiver configured to receive a theft signal transmitted from the battery tester if the battery tester at least partially passes through the perimeter defined by the security signal.

21. (original) The apparatus of claim 20, wherein the processing circuitry further comprises a memory, wherein the processing circuitry is configured to record information related to the transmitted theft signal to the memory.

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22. (original) The apparatus of claim 20, wherein the processing circuitry is further configured to sound an alarm when the processing circuitry receives the transmitted theft signal.

23. (currently amended) A method of preventing theft in automotive vehicle service centers, the method comprising:

transmitting a wireless security signal which defines a perimeter;

receiving the transmitted security signal with a receiver embedded in a battery tester for use in an automotive vehicle service center; and

disabling the battery tester when the battery tester is outside the perimeter defined by the security signal; and

receiving a theft signal transmitted from the battery tester when the battery tester is outside the perimeter defined by the security signal.

24. (canceled).

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